



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **THREE MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO OPERATING COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENT MILLS**

LOS ANGELES – Three men will be sentenced later this summer after pleading guilty to federal charges stemming from the break up of two separate document counterfeiting operations earlier this year.

Antonio Lopez, 24, and Salvador Qujada, 22, pleaded guilty in federal court June 17 to conspiring to produce fraudulent identity documents. The two Mexican nationals were arrested in early March after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, accompanied by officers from the Los Angeles Police Department and the California Department of Motor Vehicles, uncovered a document mill at 6823 Variel Avenue in Canoga Park. In addition to fraudulent immigration documents and social security cards, ICE agents say the mill was also producing fake state identification cards, voter registration cards, and Mexican matricula consular cards. Lopez and Qujada are scheduled to be sentenced in August.

The two men's court appearance came one day after a third Mexican national pleaded guilty in federal court here to selling fraudulent documents as part of a document mill based in MacArthur Park. Manuel Calis-Salgado, 28, is scheduled to be sentenced in September.

"With current computer technology, today's document mills are more sophisticated and harder to detect," said Kevin Jeffery, deputy special agent in charge for ICE investigations in Los Angeles. "ICE is working closely with local authorities to identify and dismantle these operations because of the threat they pose to national security. The documents produced by these counterfeiting mills can be exploited by criminals and even terrorists to obscure their identities and their intentions."

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*